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CATTLEMEN AND FORESTS

Address of W. C. Barnes
To Stock Growers

CONDITIONS ARE IMPROVING

Range Problems Are Being
Steadily Worked Out.
Southwestern Herdsmen
Have Much to Be Thank-
ful For.

One of the most interesting ad-
dresses delivered on the occasion of
the annual meeting of the Cattle
Growers' Association in Phoenix last
November was that of W. C. Barnes,
formerly a resident of Phoenix, but
now occupying a position of respon-
sibility in the forest service. His
subject pertained to the ranges and
the forest reserves and it is here-
with published for the benefit of the
many interested who were unable to
be present at the time of its deliv-
ery:

Address to the Meeting of Arizona
Stockmen
(Will C. Barnes.)

The grazing season which is now
drawing to a close has been one of
the most unsatisfactory ones the
western range stockmen have had in
the last twenty years. From the
Canadian to the Mexican line the
range conditions have been bad. No
state west of the Missouri river has
been free from the disastrous drought
which has swept across the ranges
like a prairie fire. Added to this
the terrible forest fires which cov-
ered thousands of acres of the moun-
tain ranges driving out the sheep and
cattle before the end of the grazing
season and we have a condition which
probably has never been equalled be-
fore in the history of the livestock
business in the United States.

Taking the western range states as
a whole the two territories down here
in the southwest, Arizona and New
Mexico, have fared far better than
any of the other sections.

It is true that in some portions of
both territories range conditions are
far from being first class, yet as ev-
erything in the world goes by com-
parison you stockmen here in Ariz-
ona have little of which to com-
plain.

In the northern section of Ariz-
ona I have found the general range
conditions excellent.

The summer rains came late but
when they did come the weather was
more than propitious for grass grow-
ing and the first frosts found a very
good crop of forage with which to
carry the stock through the winter.
Water is scarce in some parts of the
northern ranges but with early rains
and snows this will not make much
trouble.

In the southern part of the terri-
tory there are some sections where
little or no rain has fallen all sum-
mer and the cattlemen have had a
hard time to save their herds. In the
Tonto national forest the lower
half of the basin is in bad shape and
the losses have been heavy. Prob-
ably twenty-five per cent will cover
it. The owners are already ship-
ping out their stuff most of it go-
ing into the Salt River valley where
they will be held on the alfalfa fields
till the range is better.

Generally speaking, with the ex-
ception of the Tonto National forest
mentioned, those stockmen who are
using ranges on the various na-
tional forests in Arizona have had a
good season. From Flagstaff and
other northern points they have been
shipping fat beef to the markets, tak-
ing them direct from the forest
ranges. Prices have ranged from
four to four and one-half cents on
foot at loading point which is in-
deed a most satisfactory figure.

Moreover the weights of these
steers are getting back once more to
the old time ones and steers weigh-
ing eleven and even twelve hundred
pounds are now common where ten years
ago they could not be found. The sheep-
men too have had a good season and
as far as their range conditions go
have nothing of which to complain.
This of course applies to the forest
ranges and is not meant to cover the
losses of those who took their sheep
to the desert last fall and due to
lack of rains had to ship them back
or lose them all.

During the past year we have made
many eliminations of those areas in-
cluded within the national forest
lines some years ago which on closer
investigation have not been deemed
true forest lands. It was of course
frankly admitted that there were un-
doubtedly some areas included within
the boundaries which could be elimi-
nated. Most of these forests were
made within a short time and in a
big hurry. It was impossible to
make a close and accurate inspec-
tion of each area and therefore in
the rush of getting them shaped it
was necessary to include these areas
with a view to the future closer
scanning of the entire forest and
then make such eliminations as were
found advisable.

This work was inaugurated by Mr.
Pinchot early in the spring of 1909

and has been almost completed dur-
ing the present summer.

Taking the entire amount elimi-
nated our men have found in round num-
bers some six million acres which
could not properly come in under
the head of forested areas or neces-
sary to protect some water shed. At
the same time they also found some-
where around four million acres of
forest lands which could very prop-
erly be added to the national forests
by which means the net result of the
eliminations have been close to two
million acres or but 2 per cent of
the total area. This work has been
done carefully and conscientiously
with a view to making it final and
when finished I feel we can safely
invite criticism from the most de-
termined opponent of the forest ser-
vice and ask him to point out any
area of land included within the for-
est lines which is not either forest
land, land which needs protection as
a water shed proposition, like the
Tonto for instance, or is needed to
make a safe and clear boundary
line. Of course here and there one
will still find within some of the
forests small areas which are bare
of timber but which would be ex-
tremely objectionable if eliminated
owing to their small size and the
closeness of the forest boundaries.
I know of course that most of you
before me have had no hand in the
work of the eliminations. In fact
the most of you here tonight have
been our good friends and well wish-
ers and have petitioned against the
most if not all of these elimina-
tions.

It has been a hard thing for us
to go against our friends in this mat-
ter but the secretary in taking up
the work was anxious to do it so as
to make it absolutely clear to every-
one that we were sincere in our state-
ments that we did not desire to
hold a single acre in the forest which
was not needed as a forest propo-
sition.

In the Tonto region no sheep have
been grazed during the past year ex-
cepting a few small bunches whose
owners found themselves hemmed in
by a barren desert and were in bad
straits and liable to lose their en-
tire herd.

To save this loss they were allowed
to utilize a small area along the
lower Salt river until lambing was
over when they were worked north-
ward into their northern ranges.

I know that some of you here feel
that we might have been more lib-
eral toward you and stricter toward
the sheepmen in handling the graz-
ing on parts of the Prescott forest.

I feel very certain that you will
admit we have faithfully kept the
promises made by Mr. Potter when
he met with your officers and other
interested persons and laid down a



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plan of procedure for handling the
sheep grazing on the upper end of
that forest.

I am sure again that the refusal
to allow you cowmen to increase
your herds owing to better range
conditions was well founded and
based upon strict justice to all con-
cerned. Certainly it would not have
been a defensible act had we allowed
the cattlemen to increase their num-
bers while at the same time we were
cutting down the sheepmen each
year so as to decrease the question
of overstocking which has made such
broadheads upon that range.

In these matters we are trying to
stand on wholly neutral grounds. I
know of course that some of you have
suspicions that we are all for the
sheepmen and unfortunately I know
just as certainly that many sheep-
men feel sure that we see only the
cowman's point of view. Now if
there is any class of stockmen in
all the west that should be willing
to leave their fate in our hands it
is you men of Arizona.

I should feel mighty sorry indeed
if after all the years both myself and
Mr. Potter have spent among you as
fellow stockmen knowing most of
you personally for almost thirty years
past, that you could feel your sus-
picions in this regard were well
founded. I don't believe it, nor does
Mr. Potter and when these suspicions
are brought before us we know that
deep down in your hearts you don't
really believe a word of it.

Whatever steps may be taken, or
changes ordered in the future I can
assure you that no order will be is-
sued until it has been most carefully
considered from every point of view.

Some one here has asked me to
say a word as to the fees we are
now charging for grazing on the Ariz-
ona forests.

In reply I will state that the fees
charged for the Arizona forests are
the lowest charged on any national

forests. Not only that but the
maximum and protective limits are
higher here than anywhere else. This
is due to the belief that the ranges
here are not of as good a grade as
in other forests but after having
visited forests in many of the west-
ern states and seeing the ranges for
myself I am of the opinion that tak-
ing everything into consideration the
Arizona stockmen have much the best
of any other section with which I
am conversant.

The grass conditions here may not
seem to be as good as in some of
the northern states like Colorado and
Wyoming but taking it all in, the mild
winters, the value of the range for
breeding purposes your nearness to
markets in southern California and
the vastness of your available winter
ranges you Arizona stockmen have
no kick coming. In the northwest
every cattlemen who has his stock
on the open ranges must nowadays
have on hand at least a ton of hay
to the cow against an emergency.
How many of you men here put up
hay enough to winter your saddle
horses upon? Moreover most of you
utilize the forest ranges the entire
season, in fact, the per centage of
stock wintering on the Arizona for-
ests is I feel sure far ahead of all
other states, thus giving you a very
decided advantage over those men
who must move their herds every fall
onto some distant winter range and
take them back again in the spring.

As for the future of the cattle busi-
ness I can see nothing but good
fortune ahead for many years to come.
That is as far as prices go. Taking
the whole United States together we
are very short of beef and meat sup-
plies. The number of animals in the
United States on Jan. 1, 1910, was
76 millions, while it is confidently
expected that the census when fin-
ished will show that we have over

(Continued on page 2)

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CALENDAR EVENTS OF WOMAN'S CLUB

The Unusual Meetings of Tuesday
and Next Tuesday.

The meeting of the Woman's club
Tuesday was devoted almost en-
tirely to reviewing the work of the
Arizona federation in its annual
meeting in Prescott last week, for
the benefit of the membership in
general which could not attend. The
report of the meeting was left to
various delegates, each taking one
feature or another. Mrs. D. H.
Burtis for instance, gave a report
of the social features and entertain-
ment which of course included men-
tion of the hospitality of the people
of Prescott. Mrs. J. H. Kibbey
read extracts from the reports to the
federation of various club presi-
dents throughout the territory, that
the club might have a better under-
standing of what other clubs are
accomplishing. Mrs. B. A. Fowler
reported on the more salient or im-
portant general features of the meet-
ing, and Miss Sharlet Hall made a
report of such matters as appealed
to her and had been omitted by the

other speakers.

Miss Hall, who is territorial his-
torian, was incidentally made his-
torian of the Arizona federation.
The latter now includes twenty-one
clubs and a membership of over 700.
During the stay in Prescott the dele-
gates visited the new Pioneer Home.
Tuesday's meeting was altogether
a very interesting one and as the re-
sult of it all members present felt
a new energy and encouragement for
the work of the coming year. The
hostesses were Mrs. S. J. Michelson
and Mrs. Louis Melzer.

There will be no meeting of the
Woman's club of Phoenix next week,
or rather there will be no meeting in
Phoenix, though the club members
are all expected to go to Mesa City
where they will be the guests of the
club in the south side metropolis.
The word "members" is used advis-
edly, for this is one time when vis-
itors are not invited, either men or
women, and as respects the former
they would be lynched if they came
without invitation. The occasion is
the annual "lark". That is the right
name for it; the official name se-
lected and chosen by the women;
where they men it would be called
"high links". It is supposed to be
the one time in the year when the
women do absolutely as they please.
Just what they do will never be

known for the proceedings are sec-
ret and the secrets are inviolable.
It is not even known in the outside
world what the penalty of a violation
would be for it has never been nec-
essary to inflict punishment. There
is a moral purpose in this annual
"lark" as there is in everything un-
dertaken by the club. In the in-
stance it is to give the lie to the
old slander that a woman cannot
keep a secret. It is the one time in
the year when it would be unfor-
givable for any woman to even tell her
husband what transpired at the
meeting.

The Mesa ladies have invited the
members of the Woman's club of
Phoenix to be their guests and that
they will have a good time is not
questioned by any one. The Mesa
ladies will provide the entertainment
and those who read an account of
the proceedings in next Wednesday's
Republican, will know that the story
is a base fabrication, if it tells any-
thing worth reading. The hostesses
for the Phoenix club on the occa-
sion of the "lark" will be Mrs. E. T.
Collings, Mrs. L. E. Hewins, Mrs. J.
S. Griffin. The committee of Mesa
City ladies who will provide for the
good time, or superintend it, is com-
posed of Mrs. J. G. Spangler, chair-
man; Mrs. F. E. Irish and Mrs. H.
D. Evans.